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ENGLISH

APPROVAL OF UNDP ASSISTANCE TO A PROJECT OF
GUYANA

IPF:(1992-96) $13 996 000

(GUY/91/011)- Assistance to the National Agricultural Research Institute (NARI) (Phase II)

Date of approval by the AC:[1/]	29 April 1992
Expected duration:	Two years
Proposed executing agency:	FAO
Government implementing agency:	National Agricultural Research Institute (NARI) Phase II
Proposed UNDP contribution:	$1 534 100
Total UNDP budget:	$1 534 100

Project background

Guyana's agricultural programme calls for significant agricultural diversification through the increased production of grain legumes, root and tuber crops, fruit and vegetable crops, to reduce the current dependence on rice, and sugar as agricultural export crops. In addition to the promotion of agricultural diversification, the Government is pursuing research into the adaptation of crops to other agri-ecological areas such as the intermediate savannas. Considerable investment has been finally realized (with assistance from the IDB and World Bank) into physical infrastructure such as roads, sea and river defenses, irrigation and drainage.

The National Agricultural Research Institute (NARI) was established in 1984 to plan, develop and implement research programmes to foster a greater extent of self-sufficiency and to establish an export capacity in food and fiber crops. Under the project (GUY/86/002), approved in 1988, the prime focus was placed on institution building. So far, a capability for research has been firmly established; high yielding rice varieties have been produced; techniques for tissue cultures were adapted; and large quantities of planting materials for sweet potato, pineapple, cassava and plantain have been produced and distributed to farmers. An evaluation of UNDP/FAO programmes in Guyana in 1990 concluded that the NARI project had essentially assisted in establishing a sound foundation of a scientific research capability in agriculture.

Despite significant user input into overall research orientation, strategy and capability of the extension systems were found to be sufficiently weak to militate against

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[1/] This Fact Sheet reflects the status of the project/revision at the time it was approved by the Action Committee; modifications to the project/revision may have occurred subsequently.

a rapid delivery of technology and research results to farmers. In light of this, the Government requested UNDP assistance under the present second phase.

Description of project

The development objectives of the project are to: (a) upgrade the capability of NARI to carry out effective and structured R & D programmes; (b) develop additional high yielding, well adapted, varieties of rice, root and tuber crops, grain legume crops, and fruit trees resistant to major diseases and pests; (c) consolidate the development and implementation of integrated pest management systems for economically important crops; and (d) re-organize the system of transfer of information to end-users, such as farmers, extension personnel, processors, exporters, and consumers.

The immediate objectives of the project are to: (a) strengthen cooperative ties with GUYSUCO (Guyana Sugar Corporation), which itself has diversified as a para-statal entity, into non-sugar crops; (b) concentrate on the production of adequate quantities of foundation stock of genetically uniform and healthy planting material of root and tuber crops and fruit trees through tissue culture techniques; and (c) further develop significant linkages with the private sector and increasingly involve farmers into the testing and dissemination processes. These efforts will also be aided under the project (GUY/91/010) Quality Seed Development and the National Extension System, to be financed under an IDB agriculture sector loan. This loan will generally focus on a significant and comprehensive strengthening of agricultural sector management, through such components as: land legislation, agricultural census, extension services, agro-industrial linkages, aquaculture, quarantine arrangements (particularly vis-a-vis Brazil), sea defences, coastal zone hydraulic structures management, drainage and irrigation, and sustainable agro-industrial activities for women and small entrepreneurs.

Strong links have been established with global agricultural research organizations, such as ICRISAT (International Crops Research Institute for the Semi-Arid Tropics), INGER (International Network for Genetic Enhancement of Rice), IRRI (International Rice Research Institute) and ICARDA (International Centre for Agricultural Research in the Dry Areas), CIAT (Centro Internacional de Agricultura Tropical) and with Caribbean research organizations, such as CAGRIS (Caribbean Agricultural Information System), CARDI (Caribbean Agricultural Research and Development Institute) and CRIN (Caribbean Rice Improvement Network).

Inputs

UNDP will provide a national project director (24 work-months), 12 professionals (288 work-months), 240 work-months of sub-professional level staff, 600 work-months of technical and support staff, a senior agricultural research adviser/team leader (24 work-months), a research/extension specialist (12 work-months), a rice breeding/genetics specialist (24 work-months), an integrated insect pest management specialist (12 work-months), weed control specialist (UNV) (24 work-months), a librarian/documentalist (UNV) (24 work-months), a plant pathologist (UNV) (24 work-months), a horticulturist (UNV) (24 work-months); training in botanical taxonomy, plant pathology, plant virology, horticulture, pedology and plant breeding; and equipment for motorized rolling stock and laboratory and testing equipment.

Financial data

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Personnel	943 500
Subcontract	15 100
Training	362 000
Equipment	204 500
Miscellaneous	9 000
Total	1 534 100